

# **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY**

## **COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held at Office of the Chief State's Attorney, Rocky Hill

**June 8, 2006**

**ATTENDEES:** Deb Arrieta, DEMHS; Cheryl Assis, CRCOG; Bill Austin, CREPC; Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS; Jeff Blatter, Bloomfield PD; Leonard Boyle, DPS; Peter Boynton, USCG; Sandra C. Brown, Hartford Hospital; Matthew Bruns, CREPC; Matthew Cassavecchia, Danbury Hosp.; Carmine Centrella, CRCOG; David Cooley, DPH; Wayne Dailey, DMHAS; Scott Devico, DEMHS; MaryRose Duberek, DEMHS; Marion Evans, BHD; Fran Evon, USCG; Libby Graham, DEMHS; Len Guercia, DPH; William Hackett, DEMHS; Albert Hoffman, USCG; Don Janelle, Manchester; Timothy Kradas, DPS; Bob Labanara, CCM; Michael Maglione, Waterbury FD; Thad Martin, Military; Bob McKenna, USCG; John Mengacci, OPM; Jeff Morrisette, CFPC; Dan O'Brien, AMR; Bill Palomba, DPUC; Ray Philbrick, DPW; George Pohorilak, DPS/OSET; Susan Rainville, POSTC; John Shaw, MMRS; Michael Spera, Old Saybrook; Dan Stebbins, USAH; Carl Stephani, CRCOG; Scott Szalkiewicz, DPH; James Thomas, DEMHS; Lee Toffey, DEMHS; Michael Varney, DOIT; and Ed Wilds, DEP.

### **I. WELCOME AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

- A. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Thomas at 0910 hours, and Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion made to accept the minutes of the May meeting by John Mengacci; second by Ray Philbrick; approved unanimously.

### **IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED**

None

### **V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Interoperability Committee – presented by Michael Varney. 1) STOCs program – Final unit is being tested. There was a high degree of success with these boxes and the bid will be out shortly. 2) Governance – The committee reviewed the bylaws with Brenda Bergeron and some minor changes were noted. The committee expects to endorse bylaws at the next meeting. 3) ICTAP plan for Area 1 has been submitted and the full scale exercise has been accepted for the October date. There was a large tabletop held in May and attended by over 200 people, very successful. 4) The committee received information that the ITAC/ICALL

system was used very successfully in four large incidents: UCONN's Spring Weekend, New Haven Board of Education exercise, visit of the Chinese president to New Haven, Town of Union fire event to communicate with Trooper 1 and coordinate multiple water drops. The Radio Master Catalog is online and the Reverse Notification RFP closes today, review to begin. 5) The National Governor's Association has a grant program giving up to \$50,000 to participate in Policy Workshops. A multi-discipline team will be designated to participate. 6) DOT National Reps posted their quarterly nation meeting having 38 states represented. Several states were very interested in some of Connecticut's programs specifically STOC's.

Presentation by the Capitol Region on "Communication and Interoperable Assessment Effort" given by Bob Calen, Steve Menack, and Michael Barton.

- B. Citizen Corp Advisory Council – Reported on by Chief Bill Austin. A copy of the last meetings minutes and a map showing approved CERT teams were distributed. A relationship established with Rick Lynn of the Litchfield Hills COG, who will serve as the fiscal agent for the State wide initiative. Looking at forms of ID's for members and working on a Code of Conduct. There was a very successful three day animal rescue exercise held and recruitment across the State continues. Membership is at 1225 persons not counting the Medical Reserve Corp. The committee is meeting with faith based organizations in July to solicit their help and support in training and recruiting their members.
- C. Credentialing Committee – Mike Spera advised that the committee met last month. They are looking to prepare a list of objectives that need to be met and working on conceptual ideas for credentialing.
- D. Training/NIMS Committee – Jeff Morrisette distributed minutes from the sub-committee meeting. Towns need to understand that each community needs to be NIMS compliant. There is an issue with record keeping, specifically on the federal level as there is no combined record keeping effort. Draft bylaws were reviewed and the committee will be meeting again on June 27<sup>th</sup>. To date the Fire Academy has trained 2835 persons.
- E. Incident Management Teams – presented by Michael Varney. The next meeting will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am, at Brainard Field. There has been some discussion on the ownership of the IMT's and the general consensus is that it will belong to DEMHS, much the same as the USAR Team. The committee is looking to create the five Level 3 teams, one in each region, and then form the State team from these groups. Buy in is needed from the local Chief's.
- F. Child Safety & Crisis Response: Commissioner Thomas advised that the group is working with the local superintendents who will be advising their schools to reach out to their local Emergency Management Directors and become a part of the planning process in their Towns. It is imperative that plans be in place for school children.
- G. Mutual Aid Legislative Subcommittee – Chief Mike Maglione stated that the committee will meet at the end of the month and an update will be presented at the next meeting. The committee will be looking for help from Brenda Bergeron. Chief Maglione also wished to thank DEMHS, Kerry Flaherty, and Roy Piper for all their help in regards to the recent flooding problems in Waterbury.

Motion made by Thad Martin to accept the Sub-committee reports, seconded by Dan O'Brien, unanimously approved.

## **VI. UPDATES**

A. Grant Program – presented by Libby Graham of the Grants Unit.

### **FY03**

Met with DPS to finalize grant application. Expect to receive grant this month.

### **FY04 (ends 11/06)**

Challenged to spend or obligate the FY04 funds by June 1<sup>st</sup>. At this point 90% or approx. 38 million dollars has been obligated or spent. The remaining unobligated monies include the Interoperable Communications initiative, UASI funding and salaries, and all are on tract. The unit continues to work with the Towns and will spend time working on the remaining State initiatives.

### **FY05 (ends 3/07)**

Good progress has been made with the FY05 funding – 81% or approx. 19.5 million dollars has been spent or obligated.

### **FY06**

A breakdown of the FY06 grant by state was handed out. Commissioner Thomas explained the risk component and the allotment for CT (\$13.5 million). Libby advised that a representative group of stakeholders will be convened to review a draft allocation plan. The plan will be shared at the next Coordinating Council meeting so that local pass through funds can be obligated within 60 days as required by the grant.

**Port Security** – Captain Boynton advised that they received an email stating that the port security grant was still delayed. USCG plans to partner with DEMHS to produce the strongest application possible for the state.

B. NIMS – See Training/NIMS subcommittee report.

C. CTIC – per Commissioner Thomas all five regions are now represented by local personnel and they have been outfitted with laptops and blackberries. The FBI has supplied vehicles for each and information bulletins continue to be released on a weekly basis. The CTIC Policy Board will meet this summer. Captain Boynton advised that he was impressed with the quick notification regarding the plane crash that occurred outside Groton.

D. Urban Search & Rescue – no report at this time.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

A. CCM Emergency Management Symposium – Commissioner Thomas thanked Bob Labanara and CCM for a great symposium. There was strong participation by many council members. With over 450 attendees the symposium was well

received and may be considered as something to hold annually. Bob Labanara advised that he has already been tasked with the follow up for next year.

B. Other – none.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. DHS grant & Training Information Bulletin #206 – bulletin handed out regarding the temporary suspension of Direct Exercise Support. All scheduled training exercises will be going ahead as planned. These include the Regional Hurricane Exercise on June 20-22 and the Hurricane drill scheduled June 28 that the Governor will attend.
- B. Captain Boynton introduced Commander Bob McKenna who will be replacing Commander Kevin Keith.  
The recommendations for the Broad Water Natural Gas Project are complete and the Legislature will be briefed on Wednesday with a media briefing to take place on Thursday.
- C. A Volunteer Organization Symposium will be held on June 24, 2006 at the CT Fire Academy, Windsor Locks, starting at 8:30am. Registration is online by going to the calendar at [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs).

## **IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by John Mengacci; second by Michel Spera; Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 1022 hours by Commissioner Thomas.

## **XI. NEXT MEETING** – July 13, 2006, at 9am, Office of the Chief State’s Attorney, 300 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill.